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### 1. Introduction

As part of our goal to keep you -- American citizens living in the New Delhi Consular district (including Bhutan) -- more in touch with our office, we are inaugurating this periodic newsletter to inform you of news and updates that we think will be of interest to you. Some of this information is included separately in "warden messages" that are sent to you via e-mail from time to time. I look forward to hearing any comments or suggestions that you may have regarding possible topics for future newsletters or any other issues that may be of concern to you. Please see our "location and hours" information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Thank you,

Patrick T. McNeil  
American Citizen Services Unit Chief

### 2. President & Mrs. Bush Visit India

President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush concluded a successful visit to India from March 1-3 -- only the fifth state visit of an American President since India's independence in 1947. The trip included a visit to the southern city of Hyderabad as well as a grand ceremonial reception and state dinner at the President's Palace in New Delhi and a wreath-laying at the Raj Ghat. President Bush's visit included a "meet and greet" with U.S. Embassy personnel and their families, who he thanked for their service so far from home. During her itinerary, Mrs. Bush visited Prayas, a home for young girls who are victims of trafficking, and an orphanage administered by the Missionaries of Charity. She also starred in an episode of "Galli Galli Sim Sim," the Indian version of Sesame Street. Throughout their trip, both the President and Mrs. Bush expressed their great appreciation for India's hospitality and heralded India's transformation, its diversity and its entrepreneurial spirit, laying a foundation for a growing partnership between the world's oldest and largest democracies.

In their Joint Statement, President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressed satisfaction with the great progress the United States and India have made in advancing our strategic partnership to meet the global challenges of the 21st century. They stated that countries are linked by a deep commitment to freedom and democracy; a celebration of national diversity, human creativity and innovation; a quest to expand prosperity and economic opportunity worldwide; and a desire to increase mutual security against the common threats posed by intolerance, terrorism, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The successful transformation of the U.S.-India relationship, they continued, will have a decisive and positive

influence on the future international system as it evolves in this new century, and they reaffirmed their commitment to expand even further the growing ties between their two countries, highlighting the efforts the U.S. and India are making together for economic prosperity and trade, energy security and a clean environment, innovation and the knowledge economy, and global safety and security.

During this historic visit, the governments of the United States and India made a number of important announcements, including one by the President and Prime Minister Singh that they had reached an historic agreement on civil nuclear cooperation. The agreement addresses India's surging energy needs for its growing economy. The two leaders also announced new initiatives on Science and Technology, Agricultural Knowledge, Maritime Security, Space, Energy, Wildlife Trade and Health.

Americans interested in learning more about the trip can visit the U.S. Embassy in India's website at <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov>, or the White House website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/india-pakistan>. A number of beautiful photos of the trip are also on the White House website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/president/gallery/photoessay>.

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### **3. Tax Assistance**

#### **Can the Embassy assist me with my income tax questions this year?**

Don't forget that an IRS representative will be visiting New Delhi on March 16 and March 17. You can make an individual appointment to meet with the representative on the afternoon of March 16, or anytime during the day of March 17. Instead (or in addition), you can attend a "town hall" meeting for taxpayers on the evening of March 16, which will be held at the U.S. Embassy from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The town hall meeting will be held in an auditorium accessible from the visa gate (gate 6) on Nyaya Marg in the Chanakya Puri neighborhood of New Delhi.

If you wish to make an appointment, and/or attend the "town hall" meeting for taxpayers, please write to [acsnd@state.gov](mailto:acsnd@state.gov), or call (011) 2419-8000, ext. 4040 or 8562 or 4249. Please note that the IRS rep is here to answer specific questions about your taxes, not to assist you in completing your return. If you wish to hire an accountant to help you in completing your income tax return, the ACS unit has a list of several tax accountants in the Washington, DC area that are familiar with assisting overseas filers. For a copy, please write to [acsnd@state.gov](mailto:acsnd@state.gov).

If you cannot attend and you still wish to pose a question to the IRS representative, please e-mail us your name and telephone number. In the event the IRS representative has some open time between appointments, she will try to call taxpayers. We cannot guarantee, however, that there will be sufficient time for her to respond to all such requests for a telephone call.

#### **Where can I get IRS tax forms and publications?**

Many income tax forms and publications are available for pick-up in the Embassy's American Citizen Services Unit. You can also download forms and publications directly from the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

#### **Do I have to file a tax return if I earned income only in India?**

Generally, American citizens are subject to tax on their income worldwide, from whatever source derived. However, the Internal Revenue Code provides for certain exclusions for foreign income, and also for credits for taxes paid to other countries. Thus, many overseas Americans may not owe taxes; however, except in extremely rare circumstances, you will still need to file a tax return. We recommend that you read IRS Publication 54 "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad," which is available on the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

## **What is the deadline to file for overseas filers?**

The regular deadline for calendar year filers of Form 1040 is April 15. However, certain U.S. citizens or residents living overseas can take advantage of a 2-month extension to file and pay any taxes owed. To determine whether you are eligible for the 2-month extension, please read IRS Publication 54 "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad," which is available on the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

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## **4. Avian Influenza Update**

On Wednesday, February 8, 2006, the American Embassy hosted a Town Hall on the U.S. government's response to avian influenza outbreaks. Dr. Christine Hughes spoke at length about the history of avian influenza, the global implications of an avian influenza pandemic, and steps that individuals can take to protect themselves.

On February 18, 2006, the Indian government announced the first official report of avian influenza in poultry in India. The outbreak occurred in the area of Navapur, Maharashtra, including poultry farms a few miles away across the Gujarat state line. There have been no official reports of infection by humans in India of the H5N1 avian influenza virus. To keep abreast of this changing situation, you are encouraged to periodically check the Embassy website at <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov>, and click on "Avian Influenza Update" on the right-hand side of the page. In certain cases, we will be sending warden messages regarding avian influenza, if the situation so warrants.

There are actions that you and your family can take now to protect yourself from avian influenza, many of which are common sense steps such as proper hand washing and food handling. The Embassy has prepared a series of Questions & Answers on Avian Influenza, including information on the availability of the drug "Tamiflu" in India, which are available on the Embassy website. These Questions & Answers will also be updated from time to time, as additional information is obtained by the Embassy.

If you intend to stay in India for some time, you should ensure that you have a relationship with a primary care physician who can advise you on health matters important to you and your family. For Americans living in Delhi, the Embassy medical unit has prepared a list of local hospitals and doctors. This document is available on the Embassy website at <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov>. Click on "U.S. Citizen Services" and then on "Medical Assistance."

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## **5. Overseas Citizens of India.**

Many Americans have inquired about the new "Overseas Citizens of India" (OCI) program, which is often mistaken as a "dual nationality" program. However, the OCI program does not grant Indian citizenship. Thus, an American who obtains an OCI card is not a citizen of India. That person remains a citizen of the United States. An OCI card in reality is similar to a U.S. "green card" in that a holder can travel to and from India indefinitely, work in India, study in India, and own property in India (except for certain agricultural and plantation properties). An OCI holder, however, does not receive an Indian passport, cannot vote in Indian elections and is not eligible for government employment in India.

The OCI program is similar to the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) card introduced by the Indian government several years ago, except that PIO holders must still register with Indian immigration authorities, and PIO cards are not issued for an indefinite period.

If you are an American citizen of Indian descent (or the dependent of an Indian or Indian-American), you may be eligible for a PIO Card, or an OCI card. For more information, please see [www.mha.nic.in/oci/oci-main.htm](http://www.mha.nic.in/oci/oci-main.htm).

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## **6. Message from the Regional Security Officer**

(This section is provided by the Regional Security Office of the U.S. Embassy. Its purpose is to provide safety and security information to American citizens in the New Delhi consular district. It is for informational purposes only.)

### **Child Safety**

#### **1. Precautions in the Neighborhood**

Children should:

- Be alert, cautious, and prepared.
- Know the safest route to school, stores, and friends' houses, avoid isolated areas, and be able to identify safe places to go in an emergency.
- Report any crimes, suspicious activities, or anything that does not seem quite right to the police, school authorities, and parents and guardians.
- Try to walk and play with a friend or in a group rather than alone, and always let a parent or guardian know where they are going to be.
- Stay away from known trouble spots, poorly lit or isolated areas, and strangers who hang around playgrounds, public restrooms, and schools.
- Avoid being around others who tend to engage in forms of violence or use alcohol or other drugs.
- Know to settle arguments with words rather than fists or weapons, and to walk away when others are arguing.

#### **2. School and Daycare**

Parents and guardians need to:

- Determine the reputation of a prospective school, daycare center, or babysitter, and find out if they are licensed, certified, or regulated in any way.
- Find out as much information as possible about individual care providers. Ask for and check references.
- Visit schools and daycare centers unannounced to assess the quality of care that is provided and to observe how the care provider relates to children.
- Consult with other parents and guardians who have used the school, daycare center, or babysitter.
- Be aware of the school or daycare center's hiring policies and practices to ensure that

(Source: OSAC Security Guidelines for Children Living Abroad.)

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## **7. Reminder to Register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)**

American citizens entering India on a Student, Employment, Research or Missionary Visa which is valid for more than 180 days are required to register with the Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) under whose jurisdiction they propose to stay. The FRO is generally the main police station in your jurisdiction, or if you are in Delhi, the FRRO headquarters in R.K. Puram neighborhood. This should be done within 14 days of arrival in India, irrespective of the actual period of stay.

Tourists are generally allowed to stay up to 180 days without registering with Indian immigration authorities. However, the FRRO has the power to grant an extension if you wish to stay longer. You must ask for the extension before your initial 180 days have expired, or you could be subject to a fine and the requirement to obtain clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Please do not overstay on your Indian visa!

Children below 16 years of age (on any type of visa) are generally exempt from registration requirements.

The above information is derived from the FRRO's website at [www.immigrationindia.nic.in](http://www.immigrationindia.nic.in). Additional questions can be directed to the FRRO's office in Delhi at (011) 2671-1348.

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## **8. Warden messages.**

In the last few months, the Embassy has sent a number of warden messages on various topics, including security, income tax assistance, the Foreign Service Written Examination and avian influenza. If you missed a message, or wish to review one of these recent messages, please visit the Embassy website at <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov> and click on "Messages from U.S. Embassy to Americans in India" on the right-hand side of the page under "Travel/Security Information."

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## **9. ACS Location and Hours**

Our hours: The American Citizen Services Unit is open to the public from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. We are available outside of these hours for emergency services. To contact us, call (011) 2419-8000, ext. 4249 or 8562 or 4040 or 4032. You can also e-mail us at [acsnd@state.gov](mailto:acsnd@state.gov).

Upcoming Indian and American holidays on which the Embassy will be closed are March 15 (Holi), April 6 (Ram Navami), April 14 (Good Friday) and May 29 (Memorial Day). The Embassy is always available for emergency services for American citizens.